

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0008] of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0008] With respect to strain imparted to a thick slab, assuming the thicknesses of 250, 25, and 3 mm, the total rolling reduction imparted in the roughing mill is on the order of 90%, expressed as engineering strain, -2.30, expressed as true reduction strain, or -2.66 expressed as true effective strain. For the finishing mill, the total reduction is on the order of 88%, -2.12 true reduction strain, or -2.45 true effective strain. True reduction strain equals $\ln(1 - \text{engineering strain})$. True effective strain for rolling equals 1.155 times true reduction strain. Phase transformations followed by the combination of the roughing mill and the finishing mill allow the integrated plant hot strip to have a relatively fine austenite grain size. The transformation of this fine grained and uniform austenite on the runout table during air, water spray, and in-coil cooling leads to a fine and relatively uniform final ferritic microstructure. Despite this intensive rolling, there still exist regions of coarse ferrite grains distributed throughout the structure in certain high-strength low-alloy steel grades.